(c) how long will it take for SAIL to recover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the financial cum business restructuring package for SAIL, Government has, *inter-alia* approved the waiving of loans advanced to it from Steel Development Fund to a value of Rs. 5073 crore and Rs. 381 crore from the Govt. of India.

(c) SAIL has indicated that it expects the company to turn around in 2-3 years.

**Return of contribution made in SDF**

1937. SHRI JIBON ROY: will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a fund called Steel Development Fund created out of cess collected from the main steel producers which has been discontinued since the reform process was undertaken;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the main producers, including SAIL, have been demanding Government to return their contribution in view of the fact that the fund has since been discontinued; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the demands of the main contributors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) None of the main producers including the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has demanded for return of their contribution from the Steel Development Fund (SDF). However, SAIL had submitted a revival package to the Government which included, *inter-alia*, financial and business restructuring of the Company including waiver of loans to the tune of Rs. 5073 crores taken by SAIL from the SDF. The proposal for waiver of SDF loans was considered and approved by the Government on 15.2.2000.

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1938. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state: